

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JANUARY 20, 1975: ENERGY
DISCUSSIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 0308

1. SUMMARY: THE SUBJECT OF ENERGY DOMINATED THE EC
FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN BRUSSELS ON JAN-
UARY 20,. THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE
CONSULTATION AMONG THE EC NINE BEFORE AND DURING IEA
MEETINGS. HOWEVER, IF NO COMMON POSITION IS REACHED, THE
EIGHT EC MEMBERS OF THE IEA WOULD BE FREE TO VOTE
INDIVIDUALLY, AS THEY NOW DO AT THE OECD AND UN. THE
MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED BUT DID NOT REACH ANY CONCLUSIONS
ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE AND
THE COMMON ENERGY POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE IEA:
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THE EC COUNCIL HELD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON ERNERGY

MATTERS AND ADOPTED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE IEA (REFTEL). REFERRING TO ARTICLE 116 OF THE TREATY OF ROME, THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSULTATION AMONG THE NINE BEFORE AND DURING IEA MEETINGS. THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS CONSULTATION WOULD PRODUCE A COMMON COMMUNITY POSITION WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN THE AGENCY BY THE EIGHT WHO ARE MEMBERS. IF IT WERE NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT SUCH A COMMON POSITION, THE MEMBER STATES WOULD BE FREE TO ACT INDIVIDUALLY WITHIN THE IEA. OUR SOURCES INDICATE THIS PROCEDURE RUNS GENERALLY PARALLEL TO THAT USED BY THE COMMUNITY AT THE OECD AND UN AND HOPEFULLY WILL ALSO WORK SMOOTHLY FOR THE IEA.

4. PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE: THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE FORTHCOMING PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE AND DECIDED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) SHOULD FURTHER CONSIDER POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR THE CONFERENCE. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL THEMSELVES DISCUSS, AT A LATER COUNCIL, PROBABLY ON FEBRUARY 11, THE QUESTION OF HOW THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE REPRESENTED. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES TWO FORMULAS WERE ADVANCED. THE FRENCH AND THE COMMISSION REPORTEDLY FAVOR REPRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY BY THE COMMISSION (SEE OECD PARIS 1419). THE OTHER MEMBER STATES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UK, FEEL THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE COUNTRY HOLDING THE PRESIDENCY, AND THAT THE COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHT OTHER MEMBER STATES SHOULD BE PRESENT FOR THE CONFERENCE. (THIS IS NOW THE COMMUNITY PRACTICE IN ASSOCIATION COUNCILS WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, GREECE AND TURKEY). THE BRITISH HAVE APPARENTLY NOT MADE UP THEIR MINDS ON THIS QUESTION BUT CALLAGHAN INDICATED IN THE CORRIDOR THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT THE MEMBER STATES WOULD AGREE TO BE REPRESENTED SOLELY BY THE PRESIDENCY.

5. COMMON ENERGY POLICY: THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A COMMISSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ENERGY RESOURCES AND DEMAND RESTRAINT. THEY COMPLAINED THAT THE PAPER HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PERMIT CLOSE STUDY AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP AGAIN BOTH AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 11 AND AT THE ENERGY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 13. GREENWALD

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